



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

November 24, 1999

**H.R. 3419
Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999**

As cleared by the Congress on November 19, 1999

H.R. 3419 would change the organization of motor carrier functions within the Department of Transportation (DOT), increase funding for motor carrier safety grants, and make other changes to motor carrier safety law. H.R. 3419 would provide an additional \$65 million in contract authority in each of fiscal years 2001 through 2003 for motor carrier safety grants. Because contract authority is a mandatory form of budget authority, it is a form of direct spending, and pay-as-you-go procedures would therefore apply to the act. Spending of such contract authority is discretionary because it is governed by obligation limitations contained in annual appropriations acts.

Implementing H.R. 3419 would increase civil penalties on foreign carriers who operate outside of the commercial zone along the United States-Mexico border without authority. The act also would direct DOT to establish a minimum penalty for violating laws governing motor vehicle safety and to assess the existing maximum civil penalty for multiple violations. These provisions could result in an increase in governmental receipts, but CBO estimates that any such changes would be less than \$500,000 a year.

The CBO staff contact is James O’Keeffe. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.